

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

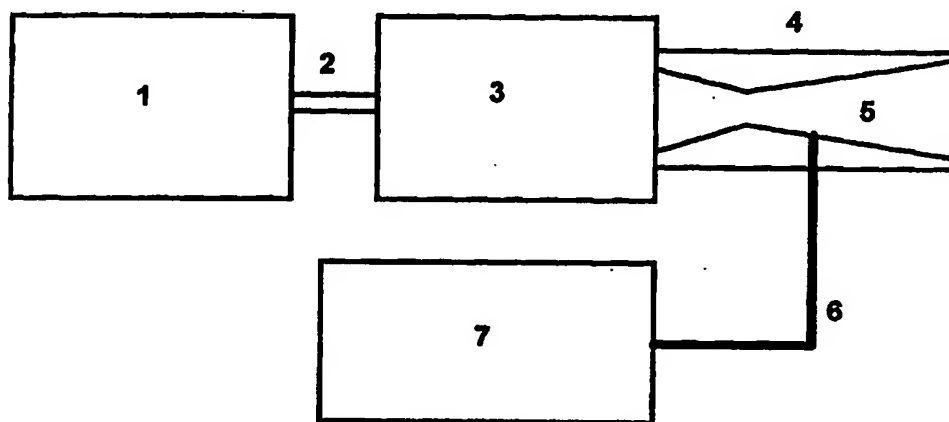
**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
please do not report the images to the
Image Problem Mailbox.**

PCTWORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : C23C 24/08, B05B 7/16	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/22639 (43) International Publication Date: 28 May 1998 (28.05.98)
<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/RU97/00332</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 27 October 1997 (27.10.97)</p> <p>(30) Priority Data: 96121833 18 November 1996 (18.11.96) RU</p> <p>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): O.O.O. OBNINSKY TSENTR POROSHKOVOGO NAPYLENIA [RU/RU]; ul. Kurchatova, 21-114B, Obninsk, Kaluzhskaya obl., 249020 (RU).</p> <p>(72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): KASHIRIN, Alexandr Ivanovich [RU/RU]; pr. Marxa, 51-87, Obninsk, Kaluzhskaya obl., 249020 (RU). KLJUEV, Oleg Fedorovich [RU/RU]; ul. Konchalovskogo, 7-35, Obninsk, Kaluzhskaya obl., 249020 (RU). BUZDYGAR, Timur Valerievich [RU/RU]; pl. Kurchatova, 1-19, Obninsk, Kaluzhskaya obl., 249020 (RU).</p> <p>(74) Agent: VELICHKO, Natalya Nikolaevna; P.O. Box 452, Obninsk, Kaluzhskaya obl., 249020 (RU).</p>	<p>(81) Designated States: CA, CN, KR, US, Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).</p> <p>Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i></p>	

(54) Title: APPARATUS FOR GAS-DYNAMIC COATING



(57) Abstract

The apparatus is comprised of a compressed air source which is connected by a gas conduit to a heating unit whose outlet is connected to a supersonic nozzle inlet in which a supersonic portion is connected by a conduit to a powder feeder. Compressed air of pressure P_0 from the compressed air source by the gas conduit is delivered to the heating unit to be heated to the required temperature. The heated air enters the supersonic nozzle in which it is accelerated to a speed of several hundred meters per second. The powdered material is passed from the powder feeder by the powder feeding conduit to the supersonic nozzle portion in which it is accelerated by the air flow at section of the nozzle from the injection point to the nozzle outlet.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MW	Malawi	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MX	Mexico	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	NE	Niger	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NL	Netherlands	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NO	Norway	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NZ	New Zealand	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakstan	RO	Romania		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
CZ	Czech Republic	LJ	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						

WO 98/22639

- 1 -

PCT/RU97/00332

Apparatus for gas-dynamic coating

Area of technology

The present invention relates to apparatuses for gas-dynamic spraying of powder materials and may be used in machine building and other industries for producing coatings imparting different properties to the surfaces being worked.

Background of the Invention

Protection of structures, equipment, machinery and mechanisms from corrosion and effects of corrosive media, enhancing characteristics of materials, in particular, production of materials with specified properties and development of relevant resource-saving technologies present scientific and engineering challenges which have major practical significance.

These problems are solved by different methods, among them methods of gas-dynamic spraying of powder coatings which are based on that a powder material is injected in a gas flow and the resulting gas-powder mixture for coating is accelerated to supersonic speed [RU 1618782, RU 1618778]. To increase the powder utilization factor and the quality of spraying, prior to feeding to the supersonic nozzle the gas-powder mixture is heated to the temperature lower than the temperature of melting of powder materials [RU 1773072, WO 91/19016, RU 2038411].

WO 98/22639

PCT/RU97/00332

- 2 -

For implementation of these methods the devices comprising a source of compressed gas, a gas heating unit, a powder feeder connected with either a gas heating unit inlet [RU 1603581] or a mixing chamber mounted in front of the supersonic nozzle are used [1674585, WO 91/19016, RU 2010619].

In the first case, the powder material contacts a heating-generating elements of the heating unit resulting in oxidation of powder material particles and their sticking to the element.

In the second case, the powder material does not pass through a gas heating unit, but as in the first case, has to pass through the narrowest portion of the nozzle (throat) which is particularly subject to wear by powder material, especially when solid powders are used (metals, ceramic particles etc.). It is the throat which primarily determines the supersonic nozzle operation and efficiency of the device in general.

Such design is rather awkward, as the mixing chamber is a separate component and the powder feeder should be built hermetic and be operated under high pressure, and therefore, would have a considerable weight.

The mixing chamber between the heating unit and the supersonic nozzle leads to additional heat loss, which means consumption of more power for heating the air and maintaining a prescribed temperature at the supersonic nozzle inlet.

This results in increased risk during operation of the device, as in the case of loss of integrity of hermetic sealing of the powder feeder, the powder will be emitted under high pressure.

WO 98/22639

PCT/RU97/00332

- 3 -

Summary of the Invention

The purpose of this invention is to produce an apparatus for gas-dynamic spray coating which would be designed to enhance the stability of operation of the nozzle assembly and prolong its service life, reduce power consumption for maintaining the air temperature at the supersonic nozzle inlet, increase operational safety and reduce apparatus weight.

This is achieved in the apparatus for spraying of powdered material, comprised of a compressed air source connected to the heating unit through a gas conduit, a powder feeder and a supersonic nozzle, by connecting the outlet of the gas heating unit to the supersonic nozzle inlet which is connected, in its supersonic portion, through a conduit to the powder feeder outlet.

This construction for spray coating, as compared with known ones, makes possible increasing the operational stability of the apparatus due to lack of nozzle throat wear. This is achieved as the powder does not pass through the throat and therefore does not induce wear, does not change its characteristics and hence does not affect the performance of the nozzle assembly and the apparatus as a whole.

When using powders of solid metals or ceramics wear of the nozzle walls occurs only in the supersonic portion of the nozzle and does not involve the nozzle throat. As the performance of the supersonic nozzle (in particular, air flow, the Mach number etc.) is determined primarily by the throat area, wear of only the supersonic portion of the nozzle permits a slower change in operational conditions of the nozzle, than when the powder is injected to the chamber in front of the nozzle or to

WO 98/22639

PCT/RU97/00332

- 4 -

the subsonic portion of the nozzle, thereby ensuring a longer service life of the nozzle.

In this case, a mixing chamber is not necessary, which simplifies the design and reduces the apparatus weight, while connection of the heating unit to the nozzle inlet permits the elimination of heat loss in the mixing chamber.

Coupling of the powder feeder with the supersonic portion of the nozzle permits maintaining a lower pressure in the powder feeder, than that at the nozzle inlet, as the pressure is always lower in the supersonic portion of any Laval (supersonic) nozzle than in the subsonic one. This results in the reduction in powder feeder weight and an increase in operational safety.

The design of the apparatus enables the use of atmospheric, rather than compressed air for transporting the powder from the powder feeder to the nozzle. This reduces the apparatus weight and increases operational safety even more, because in this case the powder feeder should not necessarily be hermetically sealed. For this purpose, at the point of powder injection into the nozzle a pressure below atmospheric should be maintained to provide powder transport by atmospheric air flow.

In order for the powder to be effectively transported by atmospheric air, the cross-sectional areas of the supersonic nozzle at the juncture of the nozzle and the powder-feeder conduit should be related to the throat area per the following relation

$$S_i/S_k \geq 1.3P_0 + 0.8$$

WO 98/22639

- 5 -

PCT/RU97/00332

where S_i is the cross-sectional area of the supersonic nozzle at the juncture of the nozzle and the powder feeder conduit,
 S_k is the supersonic nozzle throat area,
 P_0 is the full gas pressure at the supersonic nozzle inlet, expressed in MPa.

Brief Description of the Drawing

The advantages of the present invention are evident from the detailed description of the embodiment and the enclosed drawing which is a schematic representation of the apparatus.

Preferred Embodiment

The apparatus is comprised of a compressed air source 1 which is connected by a gas conduit 2 with a heating unit 3 whose outlet is connected to a supersonic nozzle inlet 4 in which a portion outside of the throat (supersonic portion) 5 is connected by a conduit 6 to a powder feeder 7.

In operation, compressed air of pressure P_0 from the compressed air source 1 is delivered to the heating unit 4 by gas conduit 2 to be heated to the required temperature. The heated air enters the supersonic nozzle in which it is accelerated to a speed of several hundred meters per second.

The powder material is passed from the powder feeder 7 by the conduit 6 to the supersonic nozzle portion 5 in which it is picked up by the air flow and accelerated at section of the nozzle from the injection

WO 98/22639

PCT/RU97/00332

- 6 -

point to the nozzle outlet. In the nozzle cross-section where the powder feeder conduit 6 is connected to the supersonic nozzle 4, the static pressure below atmospheric is maintained, ensuring that the air with powder is effectively drawn in from the powder feeder.

At the point of powder injection into the nozzle the pressure can be maintained below atmospheric if the cross-sectional area of the supersonic nozzle in this portion is made to exceed that of the throat by a given number of times. Numerous experiments and calculations have shown that for efficient operation of the apparatus, the cross-sectional area of the supersonic nozzle at the juncture of the nozzle and the powder feeder conduit should be related to the throat by

$$S_l/S_k \geq 1.3P_0 + 0.8$$

where S_l is the cross-sectional area of the supersonic nozzle at the juncture of the nozzle and the powder feeder conduit,

S_k is the supersonic nozzle throat area,

P_0 is the full gas pressure at the supersonic nozzle inlet, expressed in MPa.

This design ensures that there is no excessive pressure (above atmospheric) in the powder feeder, which in turn, enhances the safety of powder feeder operation and simplifies maintenance thereof.

WO 98/22639

- 7 -

PCT/RU97/00332

Industrial application

The proposed apparatus can be used for application of powder materials to product surfaces different properties such as corrosion resistance, heat resistance, radiation properties of the surface etc. The apparatus can also be used for deposition of decorative coatings.

WO 98/22639

- 8 -

PCT/RU97/00332

Claims

1. The apparatus for gas-dynamic coating of powder materials comprised of a source of compressed air connected by a gas conduit to a heating unit, an powder feeder and a supersonic nozzle is distinctive in that the gas heating unit is directly connected to the inlet of supersonic nozzle which in its supersonic portion is connected through a conduit to the powder feeder outlet.

2. The device, as claimed in claim 1, is distinctive in that the powder feeder is not hermetically sealed and the cross-section of the supersonic nozzle at the juncture of the nozzle and the powder feeder conduit is made according to the following requirements

$$S_i/S_k \geq 1.3P_0 + 0.8$$

where S_i is the cross-sectional area of the supersonic nozzle at the juncture of the nozzle and the powder feeder conduit,

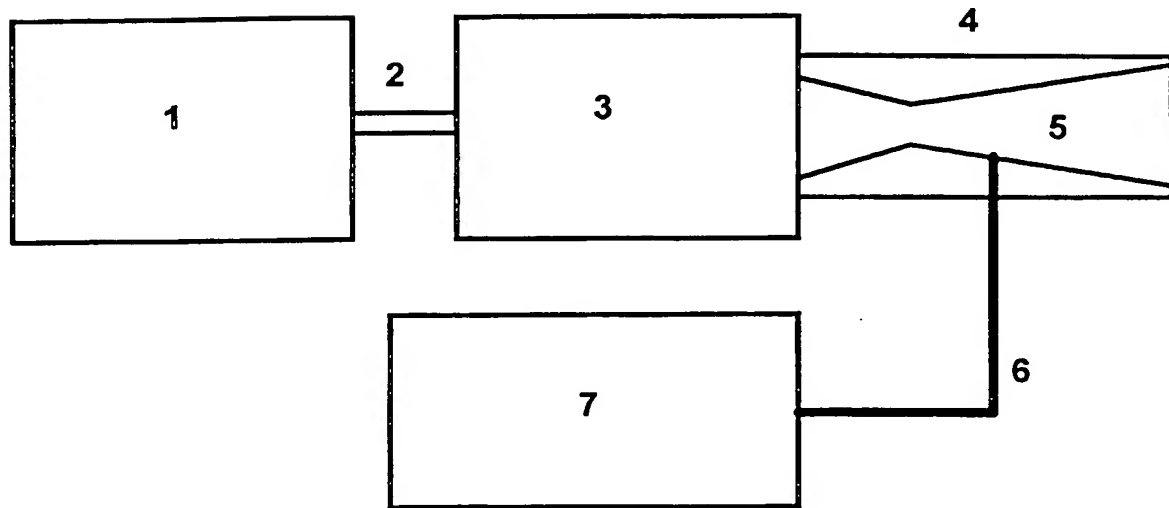
S_k is the supersonic nozzle throat area,

P_0 is the full gas pressure at the supersonic nozzle inlet, expressed in MPa.

WO 98/22639

PCT/RU97/00332

1/1



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/RU 97/00332

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

C23C 24/08, B05B 7/16

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

B05B 7/00, 7/14, 7/16, 7/20, C23C 4/00, 24/00, 24/04, 24/08, 26/00

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched:

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No
A	SU 1776205 A3 (N.B. MAKSIMOVICH ET AL.) 15 November 1992 (15.11.92)	1-2
A	SU 1687026 A3 (SEN-GOBEN VITRAZH) 03 June 1986 (03.06.86), abstract	1-2
A	WO 88/04202 A1 (NORDSON CORPORATION) 16 June 1988 (16.06.88), abstract	1
A	US 4717075 A (NORTHERN RESEARCH & ENGINEERING CORP.) 05 January 1988 (05.01.88), abstract	1
A	WO 91/19016 A1 (INSTITUT TEORETICHESKOI I PRIKLADNOI MEKHANIKI SIBIRSKOGO OTDELENIA AKADEMII NAUK SSSR) 12 December 1991 (12.12.91), abstract	1-2

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☐ See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"B" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document with may throw doubts on priori claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search
16 February 1998 (16.02.98)

Date of mailing of the international search report
17 March 1998 (17.03.98)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/RU VNIIGPE
Russia, 121858, Moskva,
Berezhkovskaya nab., 30-1

Authorized officer

M.Kosina

Facsimile No.

Telephone No. (095)240-58-88